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*Air Ministry,
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ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander James RANKIN, D.S.O., D.F.C. (37210), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Since he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in November, 1941, Wing Commander Rankin has completed 54 operational sorties. On all these occasions he led the wing which destroyed 27 hostile aircraft and damaged many more. Of these Wing Commander Rankin personally destroyed 3 and damaged at least 8 enemy aircraft. This officer has now brought his total victories to 21 enemy aircraft destroyed. He has at all times displayed great tactical skill, courage and leadership combined with a great determination to seek and engage the enemy.

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander John Hugh CHAPLIN, D.F.C. (36053), No. 38 Squadron.

One night in June, 1942, Wing Commander Chaplin led a force of 7 aircraft to attack a large enemy vessel escorted by 3 destroyers. Despite the most intense fire from all the vessels he pressed home the attack from point blank range. The ship was hit and later reports confirmed that it had been sunk. Wing Commander Chaplin has led a considerable number of attacks against enemy shipping in the Mediterranean and has set a magnificent example by his courage, enthusiasm and fine leadership.

Squadron Leader John Seymour SHERWOOD, D.F.C. (39132), No. 97 Squadron.

On the 17th April, 1942, Squadron Leader Sherwood was the leader of one of two

formations of 6 Lancaster bombers detailed to deliver a low level attack in daylight on the diesel engine factory at Augsburg. He led the formation at very low level across 600 miles of enemy territory. On approaching the target heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Nevertheless, showing fine daring and coolness, Squadron Leader Sherwood pressed home the attack at a very low level scoring hits on the factory with his bombs. His aircraft was then hit by anti-aircraft fire and set alight. He continued, however, to lead his section away from the target until his aircraft became uncontrollable. By his extreme devotion to duty Squadron Leader Sherwood contributed much towards the success of the operation and continued his daring leadership until his aircraft could no longer be flown. His conspicuous bravery on this occasion crowned a long and distinguished career in the service of his country.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Dennis Edward HEALY (60287), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 210 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Ernest SCHOFIELD (101044), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 210 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

619782 Sergeant George Victor KINGETT, No. 210 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Healy, Pilot Officer Schofield and Sergeant Kingett, as captain, navigator and wireless operator/air gunner respectively, have consistently displayed great skill, courage and devotion to duty in the execution of their duties. They were selected as members of the crew of a Catalina flying boat which was recently detailed for certain special operations. Four flights have been completed involving a total distance of 9,500 miles much of which was flown in the